









Philosophically speaking, the phenomenon is rare, though common enough. Every one must have marked the ease with which the most accidental and temporary bond produces a vigorous *esprit de corps*. When a cricket match is played between two schools, or even two regiments, the pliable, enthusiastic lads find it no effort to exert an ardent desire to establish the prowess of all persons whose names begin with the letter S. Human beings, it seems, throw out so many tendrils in every direction, that any fortuitous conglomeration seems to lead them into a coherent mass. Given time enough, and some little stimulus of mystery or romance about the mode of association, and it assumes a strength utterly inexplicable on grounds of mere logic. As Professor Tyndall tells us, a chaos of disconnected fragments of ice freezes into a solid mass; and I think it would hardly be surprising that atoms so impressionable by should be welded firmly together when brought within the sphere of attraction of an old historic body. Nor would it be wise to complain of the result. It is something that so large a number of men should look back with increasing affection to the school days of their youth, and to any valuable institution is a good thing in itself ; and no treasure is more valuable than a store of pleasant memories, even though the memory be more delightful than the reality. True it is that there is something about the recollection of the irritating details of inferior teachers. The pleasantest school boys are those who, like ancient aristocrats, bear their honours calmly, and are so safe in their boundless superiority, that they have no fear of compromising themselves by comparison. They exact no humiliating concessions, because they are too certain of their position. A more offensive type consists of lads who conceive themselves to have imbibed a moral as well as a social superiority, and who go through the world ever afterwards as volunteer missionaries, regarding their exalted moral sense in the face of all species of opposition. There is nothing in the good old public school type, which is charming in proportion to its magnificent indifference to any special basis for its claims. With a simplicity which has about it the elements of nobility, they assume an innate superiority over the masses of mankind, and regard other Englishmen, as an Englishman in general regards foreigners, as beings endowed, as he has no thought of denying, with equal virtues and talents, but palpably inferior to himself by force of the simple fact that they are foreigners.

The tendency of pleasure to those within the sacred circle, and new-born to those outside, goes thus without saying. We may go a step further, and admit that it says something on behalf of the schools themselves. The loyalty which all Etonians, for example, bear to Eton may not prove unprofitable to the good school, that anything is ever taught there, a good school, that anything is ever taught there, except what is good, and that aught is taught by the best masters, or at a moderate expense, or that the whole development of the boyish nature is all that could be desired. But it affords a fair presumption that the boys are not intolerably unhappy. No superstition can be founded upon such facts as its origin, is utterly without foundation. Some sort of nucleus, at least, is found, round which the great body of belief may crystallise. A Frenchman, generally speaking, hates the memory of his school life; an Englishman almost invariably cherishes it. The difference does not arise from the difference is presumably due to the fact that the English boy has, on the whole, a more enjoyable existence. Judging from appearances, indeed, the fault of our schools is decidedly in the lack of comfort. But on the other hand the strength of our superstitious attachment makes us listen with more incredulity to those whom it has thoroughly infected. Take, for example, one of those bluff country gentlemen or jovial parsons who have been letters after the manner of the newspapers. Their letters affect one like the coarsest of vulgarisms, and you turn your back, and point his arguments by a yawn. Rough, blusterous, euppetic persons they seem to be : near relatives of the bluff squire of Helton, and the port wine drinking squires of the fourteenth century. All sentimentality is blown to the winds by the first wind of common sense. A boy who dislikes having his jacket cut to ribands by a groundswell is a "milkoop," or a "molly-eoodle," a good hiding—the invention of the epithet shows a rudimentary logical dexterity in the use of the yellow good ; they thank heaven that all the nouns connected with them are not them, and they wish to see it knocked out of the rising generation. It is pleasant enough, if one were quite certain what is included under "non-sense." To guess at its meaning, let us take one of these really gentlemen in imagination, and put him once again before me, as I did last year. For a moment as Sterns treated his celebrated captive. Let him be what many hale and vigorous men have been in their childhood—a pale dilettante, with thin limbs, and spider fingers, and a sensual organization. Suppose that he has been a spoiled child, and longed for the thrills with nervous terror from harsh language, and with well-meant familiarity. A cricket ball is as

Having once adopted the theory that our public schools are a *tabula rasa*, there is no lack of arguments in their favour. Like so much of the of our admirable institutions, they appear to be absurd *a priori*, and *à posteriori* turn out to be inevitable. Nobody could have guessed that an ideal education would be provided by bringing together a hundred lads and requesting them to govern themselves. The experience, however, proves triumphantly that, barring a little boresomeness, and a good deal of gross ignorance, and some nobbishness, and a rather low standard of morality upon certain points, and much excessive devotion to athletics and sports, the school system is as good an animal as could be desired. The places, and the competition are numerous; as, in the first place, boys from private schools are notoriously worse; secondly, people are ready to pay very high prices to acquire for their sons this inestimable privilege; and thirdly, the greatest Englishmen have long been ready to acknowledge that we owe our greatness to their education. This last argument, indeed, verges upon the audacious. It is one of those daring commonplaces which bring down the applause of an audience, but which, when retailed by men of standing and high position, is the despair of the perfectibility of human reason. People are ready to excuse the blushing the poor old platitudes about the battle of Waterloo having been won by the playing fields. Of how many muddles and disasters were the seeds sown, one could hardly know, in the same historic ground. Perhaps the fact that the Englishmen are even more astonishing. Put into a form in which it would seem to involve the assumptions, first that English statesmen are the best of all statesmen; and secondly, that they owe their greatness to their schools. Passing over the first, which proposition could hardly be regarded as a self-evident proposition, how is the second to be established? Why should the surpassing merits of our immutable breed of statesmen be ascribed to our schools more than to any one of fifty other causes? Why should we not say with equal truth that the virtues and talent are due to our immutable inheritance, to the proper mixture of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy, to our established Church, to our land races, to our climate, to Oliver Cromwell, or to the memory of a good memory, to the fact that we inhabit an island, to the fact that we are free, to freedom of the press, or trial by jury—or for that seems to be the most convenient formula for explaining things in general—to the Gulf Stream? What is there after all which requires any explanation? The governing classes are the governing classes, and the schools, and the schools which they prefer are the governing classes. The son of a peer is sent to Eton as he afterwards goes into Parliament and is appointed to office by a certain natural fitness of things; and the public school has no more right to claim all his virtues than any other of his virtues. It is true, it has indulged. It would be as easy to argue that really good people, to construct one of a different tendency. Take, for example, the two great rivals, Pitt and Fox—the very flower of our parliamentary system. Fox is an unusually perfect specimen of an article manufactured at our schools. Unusually he had some of the less because he had some of the vices of his class, eloquent, manly, and vigorous, with quick sympathies for all noble causes, and a thorough gentleman in the highest sense, he had all the faults of his sons to acquire at our great schools through the medium of the schoolmaster.

Whether our schools are the best or the worst of their kind, they are clearly of human origin, and are subject to all the failings. Head masters in particular are distinctly human. The recognition of that fact is shocking to those who still cling to the old boyish belief that a head master is an archangel in a cap and gown; but it has come home with terrible distinctness to newspaper students. Avoiding all the wearisome platitudes which have been canvassed beyond all ordinary papers, we have here a valuable outcome of the recent scandals. Two cardinal peculiarities lie on the very surface of the public school system. One cardinal vice is that it may sanction brutality; one cardinal virtue, that it teaches boys to be gentlemen. To suppress bullying is to take the life out of the school, and to set an example of chivalrous bearing is to prefer the very first duties of a model schoolmaster. Two of our great schools have given very pretty illustrations of their way in which masters appreciate them. At Winchester a boy is accused of thrashing

THE MAGAZINES FOR MARCH.

(From the Examiner.)

THIS first and most conspicuous article in the *Fortnightly* for this month is a well-developed attack on the part of Mr. Leslie Stephen against, not the "we" for whom Strauss writes, nor the little band of advanced thinkers who have accepted his conclusions, but that floating mass of Englishmen who as yet hesitate to strike out from the shore of orthodox Christian or rationalist orthodoxy, and not yet making their way inland. It is of little consequence whether, in saying emphatically, and once for all, "Are we Christians?" Mr. Stephen has exaggerated the number of those so wisely (as we think) adrift, and very soon assumed an incredible position that some people said was the Athanasian Creed." Such minor errors detract nothing from the earnestness of the question, and its importance is placed beyond a doubt when we admit that any considerable number of the so-called educated class has been, or, in the common honesty, ought to have been, asking itself the question for some time past. There are two objects to be gained by such an interrogation; the questioner may expect that these uncertain men, or, if you please to call them "the masses," will follow him and fellow-thinkers, will at once, and on his prompting, find their horizon wonderfully cleared of doubt, and a *terra firma*, even if it be of pure negation, looming close at hand; or he may be animated with the resolve that those men shall no longer be blind to their whereabouts, and shall be able to answer for themselves. Either of these objects is certainly a laudable one, and both of them are about as serious as any for which pen and ink can be used. The first, which is of course incomparably the highest, being a final solution of something that is worth calling a religious difficulty, is not an object which I can imagine Mr. Stephen, without accusing him most unwarrantably, would wish to see anyone else attempting to achieve; we may therefore suppose him to have had the second and more attainable object in view, that, namely, of driving the large herd of wanderers into a logical pinfold, and posing them once for all before the insolent question, "Are you Christians?" To believe that many will escape through the walls of the pinfold on account of the elasticity of the word "Christian," many too, on account of the impetuous tone of Mr. Stephen's voice (for he speaks almost ruthlessly, as if he were a shaver, or a young man), are of the nature of mere guesses, and I do not know how they may ever come to hand rest or tail from.

supposing ourselves ever so incapable of defining law, or discerning its interruption, we need not, therefore, lose our conception of one, nor our faith in the other." This is the thread of Mr. Ruskin's very characteristic argument. He, too, writes very much in the style of a prophetic controversy.

It is noticed a length, discussion of the newspapers a month or two ago, on the propriety of praying for or against rain. It had suddenly, it seems, occurred to the public mind, and to that of the geologist, to write the prophecy at the breakfast-table, that rain was owing to the weather, that it must be unreasonable to expect God to supply on our immediate demand what could not be provided, but by previous evaporation. I noticed further that this alarming difficulty was a little softened to some of our metropolitan congregations, by the fact that the weather, that, although since the last lecture by Professor Tyndall at the Royal Institution, it had become impossible to think of asking God for any temporal blessing, they might still hope their applications for eternal blessings would occasionally be successful, though the impurities of material processes were necessarily slow, and the laws of Heaven respecting matter inviolable, mental processes might be instantaneous, and mental laws at any moment disregarded by their legislator; so that the spirit of a man might be brought into conformity with the will of God, though the resources of Omnipotence would be overdrawn, or its consistency abandoned, in the endeavour to produce the same result on a green-gate."

Another valuable paper in the *Fortnightly* is that on "Organization of a Legal Department of Government," by Mr. James Bryce. After discussing the question of the mass of miscellaneous legal work with which the Government has somehow or other to deal, Mr. Bryce proceeds to show that they are essentially the task of a department, and not of haphazard law officers. Under the present régime it is difficult to calculate the time that is lost for the want of some central body to co-ordinate enormous forces. In this waste, to say nothing of other attendant errors, more vital even than the loss of time, is due to blunders initiated by private members. Of this, Mr. Bryce says:—"It ought to be the duty of the office for legislation to report to Parliament upon all public bills introduced by private members, and the nature of the changes they would effect, and suggesting, if necessary, reasons for or against them, or modifications of them, such reasons being of course only of a legal, not of a political, character."

when I look at it through my telescope, it brings it so close that I can hear the organ playing."















Exchange Auction Rooms,  
11, Bridge-street.  
**IMPERATIVE SALE.**  
**F**RANCIS FAHEY and CO. have  
received instructions to sell, THIS DA  
11 o'clock, without the slightest reserve,  
50 Brown  
60 Jeffries and Gellards  
100 Krohmanns  
200 Hichman and Reards

50 Great Australian  
29 City of Sydney  
100 Rapp  
83 Royal Standard  
130 Carroll and Board  
100 Beyer and Holtermann  
200 Great Hawkins Hill  
100 Star of Peace  
100 Williams  
100 Greenfell Console

200 Great Amalgamated  
200 Cornish, Scottish, and Australian Copper  
100 Phoenix  
50 Mount Cora  
200 Backenbah  
400 Mulloon.

Terms, cash.

BURWOOD.  
TUESDAY, 27th May.

**Preliminary Notice.**  
**IMPORTANT SALE BY AUCTION,**  
of  
**SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**  
**BRILLIANT-TONED COTTAGE TRICH**  
**PIANOFORTE**  
**JAPANESE AND OTHER CHOICE ORNAME**  
and

**GENERAL HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS.**  
At the residence of Mons. **POURCADE**, in  
sequence of his departure from the colony.  
**ALFRED CHANDLER** and **CO.**  
have been favoured with instructions to sell  
by **auction**, on **TUESDAY**, 27th May, at 11 o'clock,  
The whole of the household furniture, &c.  
of the said Mons. **POURCADE**.

**CITY AND SUBURBAN PROPERTIES**  
at the Rooms, Pitt-street, at 11 o'clock for half-past  
o'clock prompt,

**YORK-STREET.** Shop and dwelling, No. 1, adjoining the Lord W. Hotel, near Market-street.

**DARLINGHURST ROAD.** First-class Family Residence, No. 215. By order of the executors of the will of the late Maria Colyer.

**STANLEY AND RILEY STREETS.** Shop, No. 67, at the corner of Stanley-street, and Butcher's Shop adjacent in Riley-street.  
Two Cottages, Nos. 73 at Stanley-street.

**SURREY HILLS.** Dwelling House, No. Devonshire-street, near E. street.

**DARLING NURSERY** Two Houses, Ross-  
**ESTATE.** between Cleveland and  
streets.

**WOOLLAHRA.** Freehold Family Residence  
corner of Piper Road and  
cur-street.  
Villa Residence, Point  
Road, opposite Council-  
chambers.

**NEWTOWN.** Two Blocks of Land, C  
River Road, adjoining M  
Reilly and M'Gill.

**NORTH SHORE.** Two Blocks of Land, s  
Bay, Middle Harbour.  
**RICHARDSON and WRENC**

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*By Order of the Executors of the Will of the late*

**MRS. MARIA COLTER.**  
**HEIGHTS OF DARLINGHURST.**  
**FIRST-CLASS CITY FAMILY RESIDENCE**  
**No. 212, DARLINGHURST ROAD.**

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**TITLE-TORRENS'S REAL PROPERTY AC-**  
**QUAINTANCE AND WRENCH** have  
 received instructions to sell by public auc-  
 at the Rooms, Pitt-street.

THIS DAY, 23rd May, at 11 o'clock,  
ALL THAT allotment of land having a frontage  
FEET to the DARLINGHURST ROAD, with  
depth of 125 FEET, extending to a 20 feet rear  
the rear, dividing it from the grounds of "ROSE  
BANK," upon which is erected THAT FINE  
CLASS FAMILY RESIDENCE, No.  
DARLINGHURST ROAD.  
The house is built of brick, on massive stone foundations, and

**ON THE GROUND FLOOR**, wide hall, dining and breakfast room, divided by folding doors, form together a spacious apartment 32 feet in length. Verandah in front, balcony at rear, leading by long way to bath and a pantry, kitchen with range, sink with water laid on and sink drain.

**THE UPPER FLOORS** are approached by a handsome staircase leading from a hall seven

**THE FIRST FLOOR** rooms consist of drawing-  
20 feet 8 inches by 15 feet 8 inches, entering on  
wide balcony; bedroom, 17 x 13, with balcony  
looking the grounds of Rosebank.  
**THE SECOND FLOOR** apartments consist of  
bedrooms, and bath-room fitted complete.  
**ABOVE THIS FLOOR** is a fine large room 21  
feet, leading to a **LARGE LEAD PLAT**, surrounded  
by a most secure fence, from which there is a

**IN THE BASEMENT** are a large area, a wine cellar and a dry well-ventilated servants' room. Between the kitchen and scullery are laundry, with hot water laid on, and sink drain; coal and wood closets, etc.

**AT THE REAR**, fronting a 20-foot lane, are brick stables, 2-stalls, and a roomy coach-house, a

The position of this superior property is elevated, healthy, and within walking distance from the bus thoroughfares. The premises are all well drained, are substantial in character, finished throughout in first-

cards to view. Immediate possession.  
Terms at sale.

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**YORK-STREET,**  
adjoining the Lord Warden Hotel.

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**SHOP AND DWELLING, No. 90, YORK-STREET**  
near the corner of MARKET-STREET. Late in

**RICHARDSON and WRENCH** have received instructions from **J. B. PRICE**, to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, **FRIDAY, 23rd May, at 11 o'clock.**  
**ALL THAT ALLOTMENT OF LAND, No. 1** section 26 of the city, having 21 FEET front on **YORK-STREET**, with a depth of about

**TITLE UNQUESTIONABLE.** Particulars may be obtained on application to R. B. SMITH, Esq., J. P.

Collector, King-street. Terms at sale.

**WESTERN SLOPES OF NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT.**

That first-class and highly-improved pastoral property  
**TENTERFIELD,**  
with 30,000 SHEEP, and 1800 CATTLE.

**B**REWSTER and TREBECK have received instructions from Messrs. J. and Christian, to offer for private sale, **THE TENTERFIELD STATION,** situated on the Western Slopes, and the best part of the New England district. The whole property is in perfect order, and the site of capitalities is directed to the **PAVING STONES**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ACQUIRING A FIRST-CLASS SHEEP-RAISING STATION,** situated in a cool and enjoyable climate. The **SEXES** and **AGES** of the **SHEEP**, &c., as full and complete information may be obtained from **BREWSTER AND TREBECK,** Squatters' Exchange, Sydney.



